REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 4.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0135608 ("Hamada"). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Embodiments disclosed in this application are directed to a disk reproduction apparatus and method. In accordance with one or more embodiments shown in Figures 1, 2, and 4, by operating the marker key **12A** *during reproduction of a disk,* marker numbers and the corresponding thumbnail images are displayed as shown in Figure 4. By selecting a desired marker number among ten keys **12C**, the address on the disk currently being played is registered as a book mark associated with the selected marker number.

Further, in accordance with embodiments shown in Figure 1, 6, 7, and 8, by operating the marker key **12A** *when a disk is not being played,* thumbnail images corresponding to the registered addresses are displayed in the thumbnail display region as shown in Figure 8. When the user selects a maker number that the user desires to watch, the player starts playing from the part the user selected.

Advantageously, users can register and reproduce preferred parts of a disk simply by pressing the same marker key either when the disk is being played (for registering) or when the disk is not being played (for reproducing). As such, embodiments disclosed in this application can bring convenience to users and the simplicity in key panel design.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 requires, in part, storing information of a position of reproduction at a time point of input to said *first input unit when data is being reproduced* by said data reproduction unit, and generating a thumbnail image of a still picture at a position of reproduction in response to an input at said *first input unit when data is not being reproduced* by said data reproduction unit. Also, independent claim 4 requires, in part, storing information of a position of reproduction at a time point of *input of said first information when data is being reproduce*d, and generating a thumbnail image of a still picture of a position of reproduction in response to *input of said first information when data is not being reproduced.*

Hamada relates to a recording method and apparatus in which thumbnail images are appended to data. With respect to Hamada, the Examiner has asserted on pages 2-3 of the instant Office Action that paragraph [0142] of Hamada discloses "when data is being reproduced" and "when data is not being produced." However, it is noted that the paragraph cited by the Examiner merely describes that mark thumbnails can be created during playback or pause and, therefore, is irrelevant to storing information when data is being reproduced and generating a thumbnail image when data is not being reproduced.

Further, Hamada is silent as to storing information and generating a thumbnail image by use of an identical input unit or identical input information. Referring to paragraph [0142], Hamada describes that users operate the mark button of a remote controller in order to create a thumbnail picture. However, Hamada never suggests that thumbnail images can be generated and displayed by operating the identical mark button. Rather, it is clear to those

skilled in the art that thumbnail images are generated and displayed in a different way. That is, referring to Figure 20 and paragraphs [0129], [0130] of Hamada, it is described that mark thumbnails are used in a submenu and need not be read out shortly. Therefore, it is more reasonable to conclude that thumbnails can be generated first by selecting a play list menu and reading out its submenu, not by pressing the same mark button that is used for creating thumbnail pictures.

Further, paragraph [0130] describes that there is no problem even if when a thumbnail is needed, opening a file is somewhat time-consuming. This is contrary to the disclosure of the present application because embodiments disclosed in the present application can provide an apparatus that can promptly generate thumbnail images simply by using the identical input unit or information that is also used for storing information.

As such, Hamada does not disclose at least storing information of a position of reproduction at a time point of input to said *first input unit when data is being reproduced* by said data reproduction unit, and generating a thumbnail image of a still picture at a position of reproduction in response to an input at said *first input unit when data is not being reproduced* by said data reproduction unit, as required by independent claim 1. In addition, Hamada does not disclose at least storing information of a position of reproduction at a time point of *input of said first information when data is being reproduce*d, and generating a thumbnail image of a still picture of a position of reproduction in response to *input of said first information when data is not being reproduced*, as required by independent claim 4.

In view of the above, Hamada fails to show or suggest all limitations of independent claims 1 and 4. Thus, claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Hamada. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hamada in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0135608 ("Chiu"). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Hamada fails to show or suggest at least storing information of a position of reproduction at a time point of input to said *first input unit when data is being reproduced* by said data reproduction unit, and generating a **thumbnail** image of a still picture at a position of reproduction in response to an input at said *first input unit when data is not being reproduced* by said data reproduction unit, as required by independent claim 1, and at least storing information of a position of reproduction at a time point of *input of said first information when data is being reproduce*d, and generating a thumbnail image of a still picture of a position of reproduction in response to *input of said first information when data is not being reproduced*, as required by independent claim 4. Further, Chiu does not teach that which Hamada lacks. Specifically, Chiu is only relied upon for teaching that the marker display unit displays the marker at an area on a display region of the display device. However, like Hamada, Chiu is silent with respect to storing information when data is being reproduced and generating a thumbnail image when data is not being reproduced.

In view of the above, Hamada and Chiu, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest all limitations of claims 2-3 and 5-6. Thus, claims 2-3 and 5-6 are patentable over Hamada and Chiu. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591, Reference No. 04536/032001.

Dated: November 13, 2007   Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments